

SCENE OF THE BATTLE OF BEAUMONT.

Situations of Beaumont, Stenay and Sedan—The Battle Near The Meuse River—Positions of the Contending Armies.



THE WAR.

Fearful Battles Between MacMahon and the Prussian Princes.

Bloody Engagements on Tuesday and Wednesday.

MacMahon Routed and in Retreat.

IMMENSE SLAUGHTER ON BOTH SIDES

The Armies Heavily Reinforced During the Combats.

Battle at Beaumont and Prussian Victory.

King William's Despatch to the Queen.

MacMahon's March from Chalons Towards Metz.

FIGHTING ON THE BELGIAN FRONTIER.

Rumors of Foreign Intervention.

NAPOLEON SICK AT SEDAN.

WHERE IS THE PRINCE IMPERIAL?

The Princess Clothilde Remains Firm to France.

PARIS PREPARING FOR THE SIEGE.

FEARFUL BATTLES.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Two days' fighting between MacMahon and the Prussian Princes—Bloody contests on the Belgian frontier—Both sides heavily reinforced during the fight—MacMahon routed—Immense slaughter.

LONDON, August 31.—Night. A telegram from Bouillon, Belgium, containing special advice for the HERALD, received here to-day at seven o'clock in the evening, states that there was a fearful battle opened yesterday and continued during to-day between the combined armies of the Crown Prince of Prussia and Prince Frederick Charles, and the army under command of Marshal MacMahon.

Yesterday morning Marshal MacMahon, who had commenced a general movement of his troops towards Montmedy, was attacked at Beaumont by the Prussians with great fury. MacMahon was, after a most obstinate and bloody resistance, driven back towards the Belgian frontier; the Prussians, after their victory, occupying the line of the railroad and ground and capturing a large amount of camp stores. The Prussians continued to drive the French from position to position and thence from one point to another until the night of Tuesday closed. At an early hour this (Wednesday) morning the battle was renewed. The conflict has continued during the entire day and into the night. During the engagement a large number of French reinforcements came on the ground and took part in the combat.

They failed, however, to turn the scale of victory for France.

The Prussian army was also reinforced very heavily and attacked the French in overwhelming numbers subsequently.

MacMahon retreated, at the close of this series of actions, with the remnant of his troops to Sedan. The slaughter of human life in these battles has been immense.

It is impossible just now to estimate the losses on either side.

The Prince Imperial of France is said to be in Belgium.

The population of the surrounding districts near the field of conflict is flying away in great terror.

GREAT BATTLE NEAR BEAUMONT.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Additional Particulars of Tuesday's Battle. BRUSSELS, August 30. Via LONDON, August 31, 1870.

The Prussians attacked MacMahon's army to-day near Beaumont, defeated it and drove it back upon the Belgian frontier. The French camp fell into the hands of the Prussians.

The pursuit of the French troops was continued for several miles, and was interrupted by the number of cannon and prisoners which were taken. The extent of the battlefield was so vast that it is impossible to obtain further details at this moment.

Official Report from King William. BRUSSELS, August 31. Via LONDON, Sept. 1.—12:30 A. M.

The King of Prussia has sent the following telegram to Queen Augusta:—

BRUSSELS, August 30, 1870. The Crown Prince has been in action with the Fourth, Twelfth and Seventeenth corps and the Fourteenth Bavarian. MacMahon was beaten and driven beyond the Meuse. Twelve guns, some thousand prisoners and material of war were captured.

An Engagement at Nouart.

BERLIN, August 31, 1870. The following news is official:—

YANDEVILLE, August 30.—Night. The advance of the Twelfth Prussian army corps and a portion of the Fifth French corps have had an engagement near Nouart. No details are received.

The railway between Metz and Thionville has been destroyed at two points by the Prussians. [Nouart, where the above engagement is reported to have taken place, is a small village some five miles from Beaumont, where the great battle is said to have been fought. It is, therefore, probable that the despatch from Bouillon refers to the same conflict.]

Fighting Near Carignan.

LONDON, August 31, 1870. A despatch from Carignan says cannonading was heard south of that place all day yesterday and late into the night. The result was unknown. The Emperor has certainly left Carignan for Sedan.

[Carignan is a few miles northeast of Beaumont.]

Prussian Official Report of the Capture of Vitz—Two Staff Officers of MacMahon Captured.

GRANDPREE, DEPARTMENT OF ARDENNES, Wednesday, August 31.—via Berlin.

A French position on the heights between Vouziers and Attigny, which was held by a body of Turcos, was taken by storm yesterday by two squadrons of hussars, who dismounted for the purpose. The place was very strong one.

Two hussars of the Royal Guard last night brought in two staff officers of General MacMahon, just captured.

MOVEMENTS OF THE GERMAN ARMIES.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Prussian Movement to Foul MacMahon—Three Lines of Advance, Extending From Belgium to the Aube.

LONDON, August 31, 1870. The Prussians, conceiving that MacMahon's aim was to join the frontier to effect a junction with Bazaine, advanced on three lines. The Crown Prince, south of Nancy, marched by way of Commercy, Bar-le-Duc, St. Dizier and Vitz; the Fourth army, in the Prince Royal of Saxony, keeping north of Pont-a-Mousson, moved toward Chalons, at the same time observing Metz; while Steinmetz, reinforced, proceeded through Verdun to Rheims, his right sweeping the Belgian frontier, in hope of meeting MacMahon. Thus the German advance covered the country from Belgium along the Meuse to the Aube, rendering it impossible for MacMahon to reach Metz.

MOVEMENTS OF MACMAHON'S ARMY.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The Marshal Moving Towards Battle—A Coming Effort to Relieve Bazaine.

LONDON, August 31.—Night. The special news telegrams from the seat of war to the NEW YORK HERALD, which were received here during the forenoon and in the early part of the afternoon of to-day, are very meagre in their contents, both as to actual operations in the field or the probabilities of the when and where of any great battle between the two armies.

Efforts are being made, continuously and persistently, to reinforce MacMahon from Paris. Notwithstanding that we are informed here of the actual occurrence of some apparently backward movements of the army under the command of Marshal MacMahon the better is very strong, and is entertained in some very well informed circles in this city, that the Marshal will persevere in his plans and make a desperate effort to assail the Prussians before Metz with heavy and telling force, and thus, if at all possible, enable the beleaguered army commanded by Marshal Bazaine to break from its present encirclement and act in conjunction with his own troops.

Reported Battle Near Metz—MacMahon's Movements Free—Forced Marches of the Crown Prince.

PARIS, August 31, 1870. The *Moniteur* says:—Persons who have arrived from Metz affirm that a battle occurred on Saturday. Our informants say the Prussians retreating. There were great numbers of stragglers. There has been no official announcement of this affair yet by the Minister of War or Interior.

The *Public* says:—MacMahon is entirely free in his movements. He is in perfect communication with Marshal Bazaine. To-day both must be fighting the enemy. The forced marches of the Prussian Prince Royal have used up many of his men, who are foot sore and have to be transported in carts. Thousands have been left behind.

Prussians Strong Near Rheims—London Papers Muddled—The German Armies Separated—Heavy Reinforcements for MacMahon—The Crown Prince Behelmsland.

LONDON, August 31, 1870. The *Standard*, in reviewing the situation this morning, says:—

The Prussians are strong around Rheims, while immense masses of them have passed to the northward. It is impossible to say whether the report that "the King is moving on Paris with a heavy force" is true or not. Equally doubtful is the rumor that "the French Ministers of War and Interior have removed from the capital." The news is all uncertain and conflicting.

French advices report that MacMahon, by his tactics, has succeeded in separating the forces of his opponent, and that he will deliver battle (probably to-day) with the most confident hopes of success. Marshal MacMahon is reinforced to the extent of 10,000 men daily.

The *Times* this morning says that MacMahon is now endeavoring to retreat on Soissons, having failed in his attempt to relieve Bazaine at Metz. Telegrams from Paris this morning are exultant in statements that the Crown Prince is thirty-six hours behind the calculations of the Prussian staff, and that he will not arrive at the right moment to effect a junction with Prince Frederick Charles.

The French say that the battle between Dun and Stenay on Sunday was without importance.

MACMAHON MISSING HIS ARMY.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

A Desperate Engagement in Prospect. LONDON, August 31.—Night. Heavy reinforcements are still being forwarded from Paris to the French armies in the field.

Special advices from Paris state that Marshal MacMahon is just now massing his forces, which number about 150,000 men, in the neighborhood of Montmedy.

The intention of the French commander is to make a desperate attack on the Prussians toward Metz.

MACMAHON'S MARCH.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The Prussians Surprised by the Marshal's Sweep of Route. LONDON, August 31.—Night. It is now known, and confirmed by special telegram advices from the Continent to the NEW YORK HERALD, that King William and the Crown Prince of Prussia had their headquarters at Bar-le-Duc and Ligny on the 24th instant, and that both his Majesty and the Prince first learned of the abandonment of Chalons by the French on that day.

Prussian cavalry scouts, which had been sent out and rode for a distance of thirty miles in that direction, knew nothing of the whereabouts of MacMahon after they had returned to the royal encampment. Marshal MacMahon had, however, left Chalons on the 21st instant for Rheims.

On the 22d instant he reached Sedan, and on the 24th instant, as it is believed here, the French forces were reported at Rethel.

MACMAHON'S ADVANCE FALLS BACK.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

A Sharp Action and French Defeat—The Battle Renewed To-day. LONDON, August 31.—Night. Advice from the special correspondent of the HERALD report that there was an engagement yesterday at a point situated between Mouzon and Carignan, between a strong force of Prussian cavalry and the advance guard of Marshal MacMahon's army.

After a hard fight and well contested battle the French were compelled to fall back. The French took possession of Carignan, on the line of the railroad to Sedan and Thionville. They destroyed the rails and took other measures to impede the transit of the French.

Fighting was renewed to-day between the two armies at Armignay, on the line of the Sedan and Thionville Railroad.

The troops came in contact about ten kilometers from the Belgian frontier.

The Cabinet in Brussels has consequently taken action to prevent a forcible violation of the neutral territory, and the Count de Flandres has been stationed with troops at Philippeville.

MACMAHON LOOKING TO PARIS.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The London *Times*, striving to disentangle the news from the seat of war, says:—

MacMahon seeks to get back again toward Paris. Saturday morning he was at Stenay. Sunday, according to the French reports, he retired to Vouziers and Rethel, but the Belgian accounts report him on Tuesday at Sedan with the Prince Imperial and hourly expecting the Emperor.

BIAZINE'S POSITION.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

His Chance of Relief by MacMahon. LONDON, August 31.—Night. A careful and very able examination of the telegrams and letters (special for the HERALD) which have been received in this city from the seat of war during the day create the impression that MacMahon's army movement northward may ultimately succeed in effecting the release of Marshal Bazaine and his army at Metz.

This feeling gains on the public mind here rapidly.

HOW BAZAINE WAS DEFEATED.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The French Marshal's Attempt to Escape—His Instructions Found by the Prussians—Driven Back After Four Days.

BERLIN, August 31, 1870. A letter from the Prussian headquarters explains how Bazaine's attempt to escape from Metz was defeated:—

A copy of certain instructions of Bazaine was found near Metz, from which the Prussians learned that the enemy was to retire in two bodies—one by the high road to Mars-la-Tour and Verdun, and the other by the Condans turnpike. His plan was discovered by the Prussian attack on the 14th.

The French subsequently took the road via Briey, but were again repulsed, and finally driven back, in the battle of the 18th, to the walls of Metz.

There they have since been confined, their only way of escaping being to cut a passage through the Prussian line, which they have not attempted.

FRENCH REINFORCEMENTS.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Marching Northward—Railroad Travel for Citizens Stopped. PARIS, August 31.—Evening. French troops have been marching from the city northward during the day since morning to the front, so as to reinforce the grand armies of the Emperor in the field.

MOVEMENTS OF THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The Emperor Ill at Sedan. LONDON, August 31.—Night. A special telegram to the HERALD from the seat of war and from Paris to-day asserts again that the Emperor Napoleon is ill at Sedan.

It appears, however, as if the exact situation of his Majesty, either in health or position, was not correctly known.

The Prince Imperial had hastened forward, leaving the Emperor, whose illness prevented him from travelling rapidly.

The Emperor Expected at Carignan—The Prince Imperial at Avesnes.

The Emperor is expected at Carignan, in the Department of Ardennes. The Prince Imperial is at Avesnes, in the Department of Nord.

THE SIEGE OF STRASBOURG.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The Fortress Cannot Hold Out—The City Disbanded. LONDON, August 31, 1870. The special despatch to the HERALD forwarded from Strasbourg represent that fortress as being almost disabled, and states that it is not likely that the garrison can hold out three days longer.

The Prussians operations against the French stronghold are persistent, regular and of a very formidable character.

The Town Badly Damaged—Plenty of Provisions and Ammunition—The Garrison Defiant. PARIS, August 31, 1870. A person who left Strasbourg on Friday last says that one part of the town has suffered much, but that the garrison is supplied with plenty of provisions and ammunition of war, and the citizens are determined to resist to the last.

Street Locomotives to Aid in the Siege—Disruption of the Library.

BERLIN, August 31, 1870. The Prussians are sending street locomotives to aid in placing heavy guns before Strasbourg.

The splendid library at Strasbourg has been destroyed by the vigorous bombardment.

Sufferings of the Inhabitants—An Ineffectual Sortie—The Fortress Still Holds Out.

LONDON, August 31, 1870. The sufferings of the inhabitants of Strasbourg are terrible. They are starving and are compelled to live in their cellars day and night to avoid the unceasing fire of the besiegers.

Another fruitless sortie was made by the garrison on Monday. The Prussian sharpshooters are within five hundred yards of the glacis. Many houses have been burned. The arsenal was at one time on fire. The ammunition was safely removed.

The fortress continues to resist.

THE MOVEMENT OF PARIS.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Reported Arrest of the Prussian Advance—Chalons Evacuated. PARIS, August 30.—Midnight. The following official news has just been promulgated by the Minister of the Interior:—

The march of the Prussians on Paris seems to have been arrested. Marshal MacMahon continues his movements. There has been no serious engagement yet. Chalons has been evacuated entirely by the Prussians. The railroad trains go freely now as far as Rheims.

The National Guards of Seine, Marne and Aisne are organizing to offer a vigorous resistance.

THE SITUATION AT METZ.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Position of the French Forces—Large Numbers of Stragglers—Meziers Fortified. LONDON, August 31, 1870. A special correspondent of the HERALD writes from Metz 28th that there were considerable forces at La Chene and Tourteron and yesterday at Attigny. The movements of the troops are incomprehensible. There is an immense number of stragglers. Officers estimate the losses from this cause since leaving Chalons more than 25,000. No road is safe.

The same correspondent, the 19th, says there is great activity in the preparation of the fortifications. Guns are arriving. A large park of artillery is encamped outside the gates.

The Prince Imperial returned here to-day from Sedan, where, yesterday, there was an alarm of a Prussian approach. The National Guard and citizens turned out with great alacrity. The alarm was false, but it was thought prudent to send off the Prince.

THE SITUATION IN PARIS.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

The Foreign Ministers—Wounded German—City Defences and the Loan. PARIS, August 31.—Evening. The Ministers accredited by the different foreign governments to the Court of Napoleon will certainly leave the capital and remove, with the archives of the legations, to Tours should the city be regularly besieged by the Prussian armies. This step, the propriety of which has been under debate for some time past, has been, it is said, finally resolved on.

Batches of wounded and sick German soldiers, numbering almost thirty thousand men, have been transported from France to the Prussian territory since the commencement of actual hostilities.

The latest national loan has produced a sum exceeding eight hundred and seven millions of francs to the French Treasury.

The city fortifications of Paris will be actively manned by the garrison daily hereafter, a call to arms being sounded as it would in the case of actual assault by the enemy. This will keep the troops on the alert and in complete training and full possession of their orders.

Four hundred Arab soldiers and French Zouaves who escaped from Algeria have returned to France and joined the army in the city.

Bodies of men are still engaged in the work of pulling down the houses lying outside the line of the fortifications of Paris, in order that the French guns may have an uninterrupted range of sweep against the advancing enemy and with the view of affording a more extended and uninterrupted view to the officers in command of the garrison.

The chief municipal officers of Paris have addressed a letter to the Minister of the Interior declaring that the people are ready to encounter the enemy.

The commanders of the National Guards have received orders notifying them of the positions which they are to hold on the fortifications in case of siege.

General Trochu will hold a review this week of the newly organized garde de Paris.

The Bank of France commenced to issue yesterday new bills of the denomination of twenty-five francs.

THE FRENCH PARLIAMENT.

TELEGRAMS TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Proceedings Tuesday—Denial that the Protestants Lack Patriotism—Reported Filibustering Expeditions Denied. PARIS, August 31, 1870. In the Corps Legislatif yesterday Deputy Johnson, of Bordeaux, protested against the accusation of Protestants in France. He affirmed that this was not patriotic, and said the Protestants were ready to sacrifice their lives and fortunes in defence of the country.

The Minister of the Interior said that such accusations were unworthy of France. He knew that all Frenchmen were moved with the same sentiment. He would cause it to be published in all the communes of France that the first religion now is patriotism.

This was greeted with great applause. Subsequently Deputy Bethmont demanded from the Minister of the Marine an explanation of the reported filibustering expedition of Germans from the various ports of the United States.

The Minister, in reply, said he had received no official despatches on the subject. In the absence of any intelligence directly confirming the report he could not suppose the American government would permit such a violation of the rights of nations.

The *Patrie* says the report of these expeditions is absurd, and all the other evening papers take the same view.

Reports About MacMahon and Bazaine—Discussion in the Senate—The Prefect of the Aisne.

PARIS, August 31.—Evening. No official information from the scene of war has been made public to-day.

The *Constitutionnel* says assurances of an unconditional character were given in the Chambers yesterday that MacMahon had crossed the Meuse without opposition, and that the Minister of Foreign Affairs had received from the Ambassador of France at Brussels news that Bazaine, on the 26th and 27th disengaged his right after a successful encounter with the enemy.

The session of the Senate to-day was short and free from discussions. The two measures of defence proposed by the Corps Legislatif yesterday were passed unanimously. A new law was voted regarding the National Guard, which decrees that during the present war the Guard may be called to serve with the regular army, and that all citizens who

seek, with whatever arms, to defend the country, or who take any of the Guard's distinctive signs shall be considered as belonging to it.

All former officers or corporals in the army may have the same rank in the National Guard, and the full benefits of the pension laws are made applicable to members of the Guard wounded in the service and to the widows and children of those killed.

Senators Haesemans and Forcade, who reported the draft of this law, give the following statement of the French military force:—Regular army, 700,000; Garde Mobile, 304,000. This estimate does not, however, include the contingent for 1870 drafted on Monday, the 29th.

The Prefect of the Department of the Aisne officially announces the presence of the enemy, and invites the people to organize a force to resist their approach by means of attacks on the Prussian scouts and convoys.

UNUSUAL PARIS REPORTS.

TELEGRAM TO THE NEW YORK HERALD.

Visit of the Ministers to the Storehouses—Prince Napoleon's Movements—The Parisian Clergy—All the Pupils of St. Cyr in the Army—A Voice from Algeria—The Prussians in Yonne and Aube—Riot Between Frenchmen and Germans in Lisbon. PARIS, August 31, 1870. To-day the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce officially visited the vast storehouses where the provisions have been collected.

The *Pays* says a Committee of Defence has been formed in Havre.

Late *Turin* (Italy) journals announce that Prince Napoleon has taken up his residence near that city. The French clergy are still actively moving in favor of the defence of the country.

Should it be necessary to fill the most around Paris, in order to stop the advance of the Prussians, it would be likely to cause a scarcity of water in the city for a few days.

The official report shows that more than 20,000 carts passed into this city on Sunday, bringing the furniture and effects of the families living in the environs.

The military school at St. Cyr is empty. All the pupils are in the army.

The *Pays* says a nephew of Count Bismarck, named Mulerie, who tried to raise the legions of Hanoverians here some time ago, was arrested yesterday as a spy.

The passenger traffic by railroad to Calais from Paris and all the intermediate points on the line is stopped.

Versailles, though an open town, is organizing for her defence.

Advices from Algeria say that the Arabs and Kabyles have sent an address of felicitation to the Emperor now in France, promising to imitate them.

The *Moniteur* says that many of the Prussians who have just been expelled from Paris were actively plotting against France. It is said the police have discovered a case of Prussian uniforms in the house of a suspected person. Many Germans who have been expelled have given false reports of the hardships they have been compelled to undergo. The Germans are leaving rapidly, though permission to remain has been given in a number of instances where there was no doubt as to the proper conduct of the applicants.

The *Moniteur* says it is empowered to contradict the silly statement of the *Figaro* concerning armed ships sailing from American ports to prey on French commerce.

Letters received to-day say that the Prussians are in the departments of Yonne and Aube and overrunning the environs of Troyes and Tournay, cutting the railways and telegraphs.

Victor Segour, an American citizen, has demanded to be naturalized, so that he may enlist for the defence of Paris.

Advices from Lisbon announce that a riot had occurred there between the French and German residents. Firearms were used, and several persons were killed and wounded on both sides.

The *Patrie* estimates the Pr